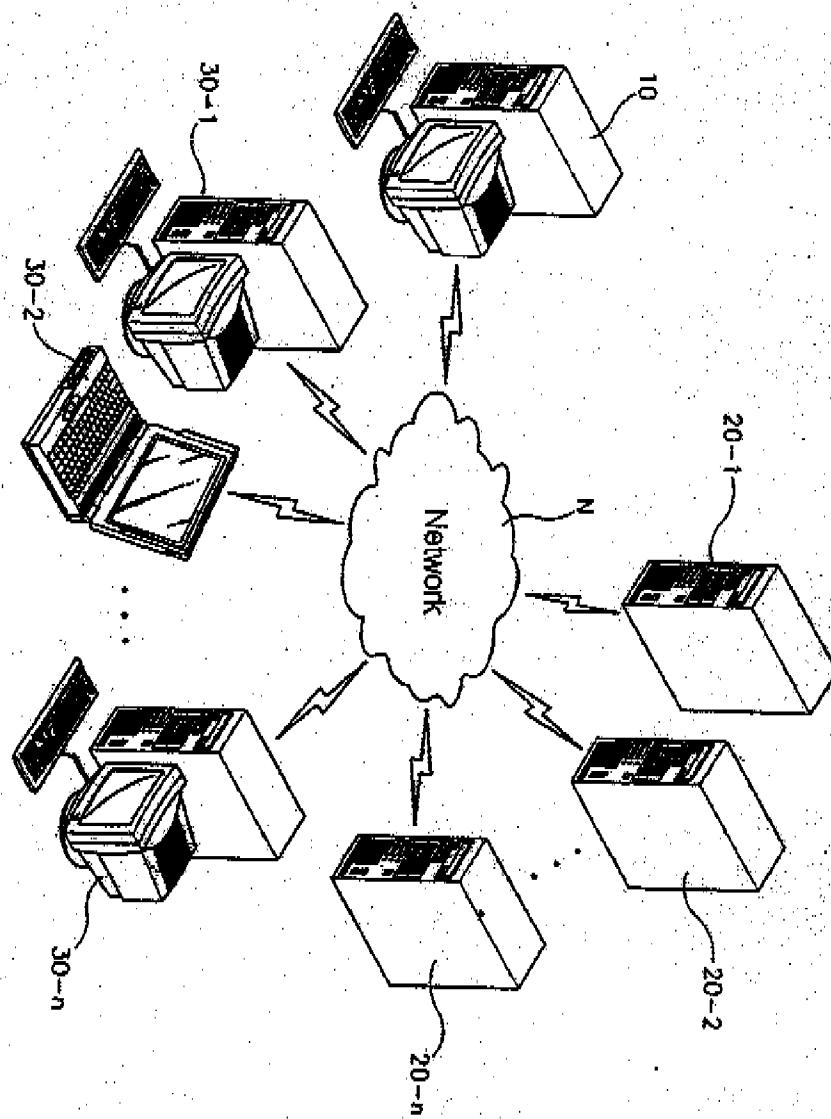


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Fig. 1



METHOD OF PREVENTING REDUCTION OF SALES AMOUNT OF RECORDS
DUE TO A DIGITAL MUSIC FILE ILLEGALLY DISTRIBUTED THROUGH
COMMUNICATION NETWORK

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates in general to a method of preventing reduction of sales amount of records due to a digital music file illegally distributed through a communication network, and more particularly to a method which allows sharing and distributing of a digital music file employing a security technique, such that it can restrain a user from holding and using a digital music file illegally reproduced and thus prevent the reduction of sales amount of records due to the digital music file illegally distributed through a communication network.

20 Description of the Prior Art

Generally, a record corporation sells a record produced by recording an analog or digital signal on a medium such as a cassette tape or an optical disc(e.g. long play disc or compact disc).

As digital audio-concerned techniques have been developed, many softwares and hardware devices have been